

Northwest Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council Meeting
Sheridan County EMS, Hoxie, Kansas
May 16, 2006

Call to Order: Debbie Hays, Region Chair, called the May 16, 2006 meeting of the Northwest Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council to order at 10:00. Introductions were made. Subject matter experts in attendance were welcomed. The resignation of Kevin Sanderson as Council secretary and member was accepted. Pappy Lies moved to appoint Deb Kaufman Council Secretary. Mitch Miller seconded and motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 4, 2006 Council meeting were reviewed. Pappy Lies moved to approve the minutes as written. Mitch Milled seconded. Motion carried.

Reports: Toby Prine presented a quick overview PowerPoint presentation on the Office of Grants and Training. This is the former Office of Domestic Preparedness Grants which is the department many are familiar with. As has been discussed before, when the next federal monies are allocated to Kansas, 80% of those funds will be designated for local jurisdictions. 40% of the local funding will come to the Regional Councils and 40% will once again be allocated to the individual counties. There are 8 factors used to determine the formula for allocation of funds. Population, risk, and vulnerability are a few of these. This Northwest Kansas allocation amounted to just over a million dollars in 2004. It is predicted funding will be much less for this coming fiscal year. 20% of the funds will remain with the state. We need to be aware of a dateline for funding requirements. On May 31, 2006, the Department of Homeland Security is expected to announce award amounts. These awards are based on vulnerability and risk assessment. On or by June 30, 2006, the monies are awarded to the states and then further dispersed to the local entities. Local entities then have a 60 day obligation period to give a general reporting of how monies will be spent. September 1, 2006 is the predicted deadline when intent of expenditures must be identified. BISR (Biannual Strategy Information Report) need to be completed. A conference call between the Regional Homeland Security Coordinators, Terri Ploger-McCool, Gene Krase, and Major General Tod Bunting took place. A state-wide concern is the management of BISR completion. There will be a Regional Council Leadership Summit June 15 and 16, 2006 in Salina. Debbie Hays and Steve Hirsch, NW Regional Council Chair and Vice Chair are invited to participate or send delegates. The intent of the Summit is to cover the process and timelines for the federal fiscal year 2006 Department of Homeland Security grant, including grant management discussions. Also to be discussed is the long range vision (10 years plus) and goals (3-5 years) regarding Regional Homeland Security Councils and related state level governance and funding sources. The Summit begins June 15, 2006 at 19:00 and progresses through the evening. It resumes on June 16, 2006 at 8:00 and is tentatively scheduled to conclude at noon.

Also scheduled is a June 28, 2006 workgroup meeting in Salina for the purpose of discussion on development of Incident Management Teams (IMT). These teams would be trained specifically to set up general and command staff to assist counties needing emergency support. These teams could be deployable within designated areas statewide or even out of state if needed, depending on how the concept is developed.

Kerry McCue reported on the EMS MERGe concept and shared progress. All six EMS regions have had initial training and the group has successfully assisted in several actual emergency situations. The goal has been to set up teams to assist local jurisdictions with incident command issues and roles or fill other local gaps as needed. This group was locally organized and was not set up through the State Board of EMS.

The presentation ended with the question of where we are to go from here. We need to set a vision of what the NW Region Council will be.

A question was asked regarding the Fisher negotiations. Debbie Hays requested clarification for today's meeting. Clarification of the situation was given by Lt. Robin Reitmeyer who indicated negotiations are still underway between the state and Fisher to reduce the fees associated with third party vendor purchases. This process may also involve pricing of equipment ordered through Fisher. Consequently, until a new agreement has been reached, all equipment orders are suspended. Apologies were given for the inconvenience and assurances made a reasonable amount of time will be given to expend funds after the site is again opened.

Unfinished Business: The Northwest Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council Bylaws were presented for consideration. Section 5 was read aloud and other previously reviewed sections pointed out. Kerry McCue motioned the By Laws be adopted as presented. Mitch Miller seconded. Motion passed. It was noted 16 voting members are

needed for quorum and needed numbers were present.

Standing Committees were discussed. Those initially formed for membership are Grants, Training and Exercise, Incident Management Team, and Communications. It was suggested each committee consist of 4 or 5 members with more if needed. Other committees may need to be formed at a later date to deal with specific projects. A suggestion was made a thorough assessment of region be done to reinforce the findings and conclusions in Wichita. Although the Council felt that process was worthwhile, there were areas we lacked expertise in. We do now have access to subject matter experts. Dr. Hallie Hasel would be an example. She is the USDA veterinarian for our region. We also an individual for plant health support as well as local experts. The functional disciplines were asked to go to their specific associations to identify what the needs of the region are and bring that back to the Council. Toby Prine does have a listing of what each county has spent ODP monies on from 1999 to 2004.

A sign up sheet for these committees will be left at the entrance.

House Bill 2982 creates the Kansas Intrastate Emergency Mutual Aid Act giving mutual aid agreements to all counties. KDEM (Kansas Department of Emergency Management) is tasked to review regulations supporting House Bill 2982. A county is included unless a local resolution is signed to exempt the county from the process. July 1, 2006 is effective publication date. The question was raised if this act would clear up EMAC (Emergency Management Assistance Compact) system problems. The Bill does clarify liability issues, workman's compensation issues and specifies criteria that counties use to determine their capability to assist. Incident Management Teams are conceptually different from county mutual aid responses.

The need for county-wide/city-wide by-in regarding NIMS (National Incident Management System) and incident management training was discussed. Emergency Managers are tasked with completing that task in their counties. If one goes to the NIMS integration center, frequently asked questions, it speaks to requirements to take the IS700 course and set up NIMS compliance. Beginning in fiscal year 2007, which starts in October 1, 2006, all federal preparedness funding will be conditioned upon full compliance. This includes EPA, NRC, Department of Justice, USDA, Department of Energy, DHS, Health and Human Services, Department of the Interior, Department of Transportation, and others to include grants from 50 to 60 departments. The answer is you have to be NIMS compliant and if you are not, you are ineligible for grants. NIMS compliance was defined as good faith effort towards 100% compliance. <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/index.shtm> is a web resource to find a description of what NIMS compliance looks like in EOP's (Emergency Operations Plans) and SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures). Those plans should identify responders needing to train in NIMS. We need to remember all emergency responders and administrators, including city council members and certain public works individuals are required to comply with educational requirements IS 700 and IS 100 by September 31, 2006. The difficulty of achieving IS 300 and IS 400 compliance by our administrators was discussed. It was suggested Emergency Managers go to each department to talk to entities and discuss training options with them. <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is700.asp> and <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/is100.asp> are the respective web sites for the NIMS and ICS on-line courses. David Penn asked if the Council envisioned an operational role in our mission. Toby Prine clarified that although individual members of the Council would undoubtedly be involved in the operational role of some of the projects, operations was not a function of the Council. The Incident Management Team would be an example of one specific project identified for funding needs by the Council but the Council would not operate those teams. The training for this team is expensive. Individual departmental basics have been discussed and developed in Fire, EMS, EM, and other departments. It could be brought together and built upon by this Council.

The Communications committee was discussed. MOCOM (Mutual aid Operations COMmon channel) is a system to be investigated. Interoperable communications is a goal. Communications experts in the room were asked to join this committee. Captain Kelly McGuire of the Kansas Highway Patrol would be an available subject matter expert on the state's 800 MHz system. The COW (Communications on Wheels) was developed through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Emergency Response Team (ERT) to help eliminate interoperability problems and improve overall communications during an emergency. It is available by contacting Jason Bryant. It is a tower trailer containing tower, repeaters, generator, VHF – UHF – 800 MHz control stations and support equipment as well as 40 portable radios to be given out during an emergency.

New Business: A vision for the Region was discussed with examples of standardized minimum requirements for county EOC's (emergency operations center), interoperable communication functions, minimum EMS and fire training and equipment, etc. General brainstorming of critical need was completed with the following identified. MOCOM coordination, EOC development, local training exercises building to regional training exercises, Incident Management Team training and exercise, communications: both radio and internet (WebEOC and EMSsystems), Cow (Communication on Wheels), NIMS and Hazmat Awareness training for all responders with operation level Hazmat

available, Regional strike force teams and their equipment needs including equipment interoperability, “breaking down turf” training perhaps through unified command training, ICS and tactical team training, exercises to identify gaps present because of departmental overlap of personnel utilized in individual SOP’s, local government awareness training, super EOC development (perhaps 4 in the Region) or mobile EOCs, all hazards response teams, plant and grain education, public information officers and media involvement, and GIS/GPS capabilities. Each member was urged to go back to their counties to discuss needs, identify anything they are utilizing that works well, and bring those to the next meeting.

Pappy Lies made a motion to adjourn. Second by Lorraine Baughman. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Kaufman, Secretary